

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented): A method of discharging a liquid droplet, comprising:

providing a liquid discharging apparatus comprising

a metering tube having a discharge port communicating to outside, and

a plunger whose tip face closely contacts an inner wall surface of the metering tube,

moving forward and stopping the plunger over a plurality of times during a forward movement process of the plunger; and

controlling moving speed of the plunger from a start of a deceleration to a stop of the plunger in the steps of moving forward and stopping the plunger such that a discharge quantity of the liquid droplet discharged from the discharge port becomes constant at every discharge,

wherein the liquid material in the metering tube is discharged from the discharge port over a plurality of times during the forward movement process of the plunger.

2. (Currently amended) A method of discharging a liquid droplet of claim 1, wherein the plunger having an air bubble removing ~~means~~ mechanism.

3. (Previously presented) A method of discharging a liquid droplet, wherein the liquid droplet discharged by the method of the claim 1 or 2 is applied onto a work.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) An apparatus for discharging a liquid material, comprising:

a metering tube having a discharge port communicating to outside;

a plunger whose tip face closely contacts an inner wall surface of the metering tube[[1]];

and

a ~~control means~~ controller controlling a forward movement process of the plunger, thereby discharging the liquid material in the metering tube from the discharge port over plurality of times during the forward movement process of the plunger,

wherein the ~~control means~~ controller controls a moving speed of the plunger from a start of a deceleration to a stop of the plunger in the steps of moving forward and stopping the plunger such that a discharge quantity of the liquid droplet discharged from the discharge port becomes constant at every discharge.

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus for discharging a liquid material of claim 5, comprising an input ~~means~~ device indicating the moving speed of the plunger moving forward from start of deceleration to stop to the ~~control means~~ controller.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus for discharging a liquid material of claim 6, wherein the ~~control means~~ controller controls the operation of the plunger on the basis of data concerning the

moving speed of the plunger moving forward from start of deceleration to stop, which has been inputted by the input ~~means~~ device.

8. (Previously presented) A method of discharging a liquid droplet of claim 1 or 2, wherein the plunger is moved by a motor and controlling moving speed of the plunger by controlling a rotation rotation of operation of the motor.

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus for discharging a liquid material of claim 5, 6, or 7, wherein the plunger having an air bubble removing ~~means~~ mechanism.

10. (Currently amended) A apparatus of discharging a liquid material of claim 5, 6, or 7, wherein the plunger is moved by a motor and the ~~control means~~ controller controls moving speed of the plunger by controlling a rotation of operation of the motor.

11. (New) A method of discharging a liquid droplet of claim 1 or 2, wherein the step of controlling moving speed of the plunger comprises the steps of:

- a) starting and accelerating forward movement of the plunger;
- b) keeping the forward movement of the plunger at a constant speed;
- c) decelerating and stopping the plunger,

wherein the plunger is moved by a regulated amount.

12. (New) A method of discharging a liquid droplet of claim 1 or 2, wherein the step of controlling moving speed of the plunger comprises the steps of:

- a) starting and accelerating forward movement of the plunger;
- b) decelerating and stopping the plunger without keeping the forward movement at a constant speed,

wherein the plunger is moved by a regulated amount.